

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LILONG 00030 060944Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /009 W

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P 060728Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 536

C O N F I D E N T I A L LILONGWE 0030

EYES ONLY FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE FROM AMBASSADOR
STEVENSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, MASS, MI, PFOR, PINS, PINT, PORT, EAID, EFUN

SUBJECT: RECENT DECISION RE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO MALAWI

REF: A. STATE 310491 B. LILONGWE 1419 C. LILONGWE 1420

D. STATE 301061 E. LETTER FROM COUNTRY DIRECTOR POST,
DECEMBER 23, 1976

1. ALTHOUGH I DISAGREED WITH DECISION TAKEN AS DESCRIBED
IN REFTEL A, I ACCEPTED IT HAVING HAD A CHANCE TO EXPRESS
MY VIEWS FULLY IN REFTELS B AND C AND REALIZING THAT
THERE ARE MANY FACTORS ON YOUR END OF WHICH WE HERE ARE
UNAWARE OR INCAPABLE OF ASSESSING. HOWEVER, ON RECEIVING
POST LETTER YESTERDAY I WAS QUITE FRANKLY APPALLED,
PARTICULARLY IN THIS POLITICAL ERA, TO LEARN THAT THE
PROBLEM NOW WITH REGARD TO DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO
MALAWI SEEMS TO BE HOW AND IN WHAT MANNER CAN WE BEST
THWART THE INTENT OF CONGRESS BY DECEPTION OR DIVERSION
WITH REGARD TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION HERE. I GET
THE IMPRESSION THAT I AM BEING EXPECTED TO ACQUIESCE TO
A COMPLICATED AID MANEUVER INVOLVING SLEIGHT-OF-HAND
AND THE SHELL GAME TO PROTECT THE BUNDA PROJECT AND IF
THIS IS THE CASE I AM NOT REPEAT NOT PREPARED TO DO SO.

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2. I FULLY REALIZE BOTH MALAWI'S RELATIVE POLITICAL

UNIMPORTANCE IN THE SOUTHERN AFRICA CONTEXT AND THE
COMMITTMENT TO BUNDA ON THE PART OF MANY AID OFFICIALS.
I, TOO, WOULD HATE TO SEE THE LATTER JEOPARDIZED, BUT
AT THE SAME TIME NOT AT THE RISK, IT SEEMS TO ME, OF
SERIOUSLY DAMAGING THE BUREAU'S RELATIONS AND REPUTATION

ON THE HILL SHOULD THE VARIOUS AID SUBTERFUGES SUGGESTED
IN POST'S LETTER COME TO LIGHT.

3. IN REFTELS B AND C I TRIED TO PRESENT A BALANCED
PICTURE OF THE SITUATION HERE AND RECOMMENDED THAT THIS
BE GIVEN TO THE CONGRESS. IN REFTEL A I AM ASKED TO
BELIEVE THAT THE CONSTRUCTIONS ON THE REPORTING FORM ARE
SUCH THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE. I HAVE BEEN AROUND
TOO LONG TO ACCEPT SUCH EXPLANATION. SURELY THIS IS WHERE
H LIAISON COMES INTO PLAY AND WE TALK TO VARIOUS KEY
CONGRESSMEN AND COMMITTEE STAFF MEMBERS. I WOULD REITERATE
ALSO, A THOUGHT EXPRESSED IN REFTEL B THAT A BALANCED AND
FACTUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION
HERE MIGHT NOW WELL HAVE A RESTRAINING EFFECT ON BANDA.

4. IF I HAVE SOMEHOW MISREAD OR MISJUDGED THIS SITUATION
PLEASE ENLIGHTEN ME. PERHAPS I HAVE, BECAUSE I DO NOT
BELIEVE FOR A MOMENT YOU WOULD ACCEPT DELIBERATE
DECEPTION OF THE CONGRESS, BUT IT ALSO OCCURS TO ME
THAT YOU HAVE MUCH MORE IMPORTANT MATTERS TO CONTEND WITH
THAN ASSISTANCE TO MALAWI AND MAY BE UNAWARE OF THE SITUATION
DESCRIBED ABOVE, WHICH I EXPECT, IS LARGELY BEING
HANDLED BY AID. BEST REGARDS.
STEVENSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, SECURITY, REPORTS, HUMAN RIGHTS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, POLITICAL SITUATION, LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LILONG00030
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770005-0670
Format: TEL
From: LILONGWE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770176/aaaacoat.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4c74b8dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 77 STATE 310491, 77 STATE 301061
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3653339
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RECENT DECISION RE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO MALAWI
TAGS: SHUM, MASS, PFOR, PINS, PINT, PORG, EAID, EFIN, MI
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4c74b8dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009